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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

MASAHIRO KAKEHI ET AL

SERIAL NO. : 09/891,287

FILED: JUNE 27, 2001

FOR: METHOD FOR PRODUCING
NUCLEOTIDE BY FERMENTATION

: EXAMINER: SLOBODYANSKY

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1652

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AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Official Action dated July 9, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-3 and 6-8.

Please amend Claims 4 and 5 as shown in the attached marked-up copy:

4. (Amended) An isolated bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia* having an ability to produce and accumulate nucleoside 5'-phosphate ester in a medium, in which *ushA* gene and *aphA* gene are disrupted.

5. (Amended) The isolated bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia* according to Claim 4, wherein the nucleoside 5'-phosphate ester is selected from the group consisting of 5'-inosinic acid or 5'-guanylic acid.